



THE SMILE SAYS IT ALL

Josh Mason is a second-grader at Newton County Elementary School. He likes to play baseball and hunt with his father — Sgt. Jon Mason, a full-time member of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Battalion. Sgt. Mason returned home in June 2004 after a year of active duty in Washington, D.C. "I missed him very much. He is a great dad and I am glad he is home," Josh said. Josh's mother is Ellen, and he has a brother, Jordan. The family attends Newton United Methodist Church.



Mason

SUBMITTED PHOTO



ILLUSTRATION BY CLAIR WOODS

YOU CAN SEE THE PRIDE

Art students at Northwest Junior High School in Meridian were asked to draw pictures to salute U.S. troops. Here's what ninth-grader Clair Woods said about her drawing: "I've never really understood or agreed with war, so seeing things from a soldier's viewpoint is difficult for me. I had to think about what kind of pride they must take in protecting their family and friends. Thank you for what you do, it helps more than you'll ever know."

His mind is on the Lord, his heart always with us

Holly Whitted of Meridian submitted this "Bragging Rights" story about her husband, Sgt. Clifton B. Whitted of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 185th Aviation Group, Company G.

By Holly Whitted
special to The Star

My "brag" is about Sgt. Clifton B. Whitted for his prayers, his faithfulness, and his diligence. I love and appreciate the fact that Clif believes in prayer.

Whenever we talk, Clif and I are able to share prayer requests with each other. I am deeply comforted

to know that my husband, Clif, is praying for me and our children, Allison, Caitlyn, Joshua and our new baby-on-the-way each day just like we are praying for him.

As often as possible, Clif gets online and talks to me and our children. He is very faithful to express his love to us, and he is thoughtfully interested in the everyday details of our lives.

Each time Clif shares bits and pieces of his day with us, he reassures us not to worry, but to pray and be thankful. With careful prayer and diligence, my husband loyally serves our country, but his mind is on the Lord, and his heart is always with us.

We are gratefully in love with you, Clif. Thank you for being the honorable man that you are each day.



Whitted